

## **Points for upcoming hearings for CIDR**

Thank you for your time this morning to hear testimony regarding one of the most important issues facing the Interior Design Industry (community) to date.

My name is Carolyn Dwyer. I have a BS in Architecture from LTU and have worked both in the Architecture and Interior Design fields. Currently, I am a sales representative for Contract Wallcoverings headquartered in Troy Michigan. I service over 600 Architecture, Interior Design and construction firms in the Detroit Metropolitan area.

I am here today to address some valid concerns regarding the health and safety of our citizens, but more importantly the financial welfare of the citizens of this Great state which I believe is being seriously underestimated.

### **Health and Safety**

The first Health and safety factors... flooring that is incorrectly specified can result in slip and falls. Stairways and passage ways improperly lit and cause injuries. I have been in office buildings where non fire rated wallcovering was specified by someone posing as an interior designer without qualifications. The latter in my opinion represents one of the greatest threats to our citizen's safety, fire hazards.

There are other health concerns as well such as the air quality of public spaces. Interior designers with proper training are aware of products with low V.O.C.s and advocate their use wherever possible. This may not seem that critical, but studies have shown that indoor air quality can affect not only a person's health, but their productivity as well. At this point I want to transition into the financial welfare points. Independent studies cited by the Greenguard Institute have shown the IAQ can reduce productivity in the workspace by 25%. Again this is an intangible, but carries with it unknown increased costs to the public (companies).

### **Financial welfare of the public**

Individuals acting as Interior Designers without proper training pose not only health and safety risks to the citizens of this great state, but also financial concerns as well.

When materials are incorrectly specified they can cost clients literally thousands of dollars, for example listen to this true story of a fast food chain that specified a non- solution dyed carpet. Carpet is carpet right...wrong. Fast food restaurants frequently use bleach and water for cleaning. If a carpet is not solution dyed, bleach can and will take out the color leaving white spots in its wake. As a result of this improper specification all the carpet in every company store in the US had to be replaced. Bottom line...costing the company tens of thousands of extra dollars.

This is true of many, many other products...such as upholstery. Specifying the wrong fabric for booths in a restaurant, one that didn't pass scrub cycle tests will prematurely fail, resulting again in extra costs to the unsuspecting client.

I mentioned earlier the ramifications of poor indoor air quality on individual's health, but Independent studies cited by the Greenguard Institute have shown that poor IAQ can reduce productivity in the workspace by 25%. Again this is an intangible, but carries with it unknown increased costs to the public (companies).

It is not just under specifying materials that poses a problem it is also the over specifying of materials. In architecture we call over designing a building, which can increase the cost of the structure. When products are over specified for example when a type 2 wallcovering is used as when a type I was sufficient this cost is passed onto the unsuspecting client without their understanding a mistake that a qualified Interior designer would not make.

### **Environmental issues**

Interior designers are trained to select products that are environmentally friendly and safe, for example products that contain recycled materials or ones that are sustainable and reusable. This subject affects the health, safety and financial well being of our citizens.

### **Summary**

My concern is that the clients receiving interior design services do not even know enough about these matters to request them to be addressed for their projects or recognize if they received them from a.

Many of the above situations are not necessarily monitored by state and local government in particular, the environmental soundness, VOC ratings, performance and cleaning issues of products used in public spaces. In conclusion the registration of interior designers will strengthen the building and architectural community by providing better service to the very deservedly citizens of the state of Michigan. Thank you for your valuable time and considering the facts concerning this very important issue.